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STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

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12 May 2020

Clint Chisler, Permit Lead
Permit Lead, Mining Act Reclamation Program
Mining and Minerals Division (MMD)
1220 South St. Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

RE: Regular Existing Mine, Quarry 1 Reclamation Plan, GCC Rio Grande Inc. Tijeras Mine and Mill, Permit No. BE001RE; NMDGF No. 19776.

Dear Mr. Chisler,

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed the Quarry 1 Reclamation Plan submitted by GCC Rio Grande Inc. (GCC) and provides the following comments.

The reclamation plan states that a 2008 test-plot study indicated that the application of fertilizer or organic amendments was not cost effective and that Redbed soils (removed during mining operations) would provide a suitable plant growth medium. The Department has not reviewed the test-plot study and will defer to MMD's judgment as to whether or not Redbed will function adequately as a suitable plant growth medium without the use of soil amendments or the addition of sterile triticale into the seed mix.

The Department concurs with the reclamation seed mix proposed by GCC, and also recommends that GCC requests seed test results from the vendor to avoid inadvertently introducing exotic species to the reclamation site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed reclamation plan. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, at (505) 476-8159 or ronald.kellermueller@state.nm.us

Sincerely,

Matt Wunder, Ph.D.
Chief, Ecological and Environmental Planning Division

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office